

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASUNCI 00074 062045Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----087863 062049Z /64

O P 062010Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1938
INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 74

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: OAS, SHUM
SUBJECT: URUGUAYAN AMBASSADOR ROCA OFFERS TO NEGOTIATE CONCESSION
TO IAHC

REF STATE 3031

1. MY COMMENTS ON INTERESTING DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED
REFTEL FOLLOW:

2. WE SHOULD BE SKEPTICAL, EVEN CYNICAL, REGARDING
THE STRENGTH AND DURABILITY OF ANY COMMITMENT MADE
BY THE PRESENT URUGUAY REGIME TO PERMIT THE IAHC
TO VISIT THAT COUNTRY. THE OBJECTIVE OF URUGUAY IS
TO HOST THE OAS GA FOR PRESTIGE REASONS DISCUSSED
IN OTHER MESSAGES. A HIGH-LEVEL OAS COMMISSION
VISIT TO DISCUSS STEPS TO NORMALIZE GOU'S RELATIONS
WITH THE IAHC IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE US ACQUIESCENCE
IS A GIFT. ONCE THE FORMATION OF SUCH AN AD HOC
COMMISSION IS ANNOUNCED, IT IS A FOREGONE CONCLUSION
THAT MONTEVIDEO WILL BE THE SITE OF THE GA. ONCE
THE COMMISSION ARRIVES IN MONTEVIDEO, IT WILL BE
GIVEN VIP TREATMENT BUT ANY COMMITMENT WILL BE CAREFULLY
HEDGED. AFTER THE GA IS OVER, EXCUSES WILL
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BE FOUND NOT TO COMPLY.

3. I WOULD FOREGO THE COMMISSION VISIT AND EXACT
AN UNEQUIVOCAL COMMITMENT FROM URUGUAY TO ADMIT THE
IAHC IN 1978. THERE IS, AFTER ALL, VERY LITTLE TO
NEGOTIATE. EITHER URUGUAY ACCEPTS AN IAHC VISIT,
OR IT DOES NOT. ANY RESTRICTIONS ON PLACES THE

COMMISSION COULD VISIT OR THE MAKEUP OF THE COMMISSION
WOULD DIMINISH THE IAHRC AND INSURE ADRES AGUILAR'S
REJECTION OF THE TERMS.

4. I TEND TO THINK THAT THE GOU COMMITTED ITSELF TO
A COURSE OF ACTION WITHOUT THINKING THE WHOLE MATTER
THROUGH. THEY MUST NOW BE VERY UNEASY ABOUT THE
PROSPECT OF REJECTION OF THEIR OFFER OR, ALMOST AS
BAD, THE US, MEXICO, VENEZUELA AND PERHAPS OTHERS
SENDING LOW-LEVEL DELEGATIONS. IN THIS CONNECTION,
DISCUSSIONS WITH MY DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES HERE IN
ASUNCION INDICATE WIDE-SPREAD SKEPTICISM THAT THE
URUGUAY OFFER WILL PROSPER. THE MOST OUTSPOKEN
OPPONENT OF MONTEVIDEO AS THE SITE OF THE NEXT GA IS
THE PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR. THE VENEZUELAN, WHOSE
GOVERNMENT DOES NOT HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH
URUGUAY, IS ALSO ADAMANT. THE MEXICAN AMBASSADOR
EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT FOREIGN MINISTER ROEL WOULD
ATTEND A GA IN MONTEVIDEO. THE COLOMBIAN EXPRESSED
SIMILAR SENTIMENTS.

5. WE SHOULD DEMAND A HEAVY PRICE FOR OUR ACQUIESCENCE.
IF URUGUAY REFUSES TO PAY THE PRICE, WE SHOULD
INFORM THEM THAT WE WILL VOTE AGAINST MONTEVIDEO AS
THE SITE OF THE GA AND THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WILL NOT ATTEND. MY GUESS IS THAT THIS WARNING WILL
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PROVE SUFFICIENT TO BRING ABOUT THE IRON-CLAD
COMMITMENT TO AN IAHRC VISIT THAT WE DESIRE.
WHITE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, POLICIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ASUNCI00074
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780011-0097
Format: TEL
From: ASUNCION
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780194/aaaadawr.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c59e01e6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 3031
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3820730
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: URUGUAYAN AMBASSADOR ROCA OFFERS TO NEGOTIATE CONCESSION TO IAHR
TAGS: SHUM, UR, OAS, IAHR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c59e01e6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014